

# HUGH MACLEOD



## CONTACTS

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## INTRODUCTION

Hugh Macleod is a trainee barrister with a Master's in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University. He spent a decade in the Middle East as a foreign correspondent and filmmaker, reporting on humanitarian and political crises in Syria, Lebanon and Yemen, and produced award-winning coverage of the Syrian uprising and crackdown. Currently based in Copenhagen, he specialises in the evolution of International Criminal Justice as it relates to Syria, the adjudication of climate change liability in courts, and the legal basis for the human right to a healthy environment.

## EDUCATION

2019-2020: **City Law School**, University of London, **Bar Professional Training Course** (Currently 81) Vocational training in English law for representing clients in all civil and criminal proceedings, from conference, opinion writing and drafting, to written and oral advocacy before Court. I specialised in Advanced Criminal Litigation and Fraud.

2017-2019: **University of Oxford**, New College: **Master of Studies in International Human Rights Law**: 68 (Merit) I specialised in Refugee Law; Business and Human Rights; International Environmental Law and Human Rights; and the International Rights of the Child. My dissertation was on the role of IHRL in Investor State Dispute Settlement.

2015-2017: **Nottingham Trent University** Law School: **Graduate Diploma in Law**: Commendation. Winner of the Shoosmiths Prize for Best Research Project 2016/17 for my paper on Climate Change Liability in English Law.

1999-2002: **University of Oxford**, Brasenose College: **BA Hons** English Language and Literature: 2:1

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Nov 2019-Oct 2020: **Legal Researcher**: For the UK's **The Good Law Project** I researched strategic environmental litigation, including prospects for bringing an action in tort against the UK government for breach of a duty of care over air and water pollution. For Denmark's **Human Rights Nudge** project director I researched the grounds on which climate change cases in different jurisdictions were argued successfully or not, and the reasoning of the court.

Jan 2020: **Six Pump Court Chambers**: My mini-pupillage included an appeal in the High Court which the QC turned from a narrow case of statutory interpretation into a substantive issue of justice. A judicial review of interim relief for a prisoner facing deportation engaged the Modern Slavery Act. I wrote briefings on the UK's new Environment Bill 2020. During June 2017 I worked for a junior barrister at Six Pump Chambers, assisting her at Crown Court criminal trials and writing an opinion on liability for mishandling asbestos. I have written legal analysis for chambers' climate change blog.

Jun 2019: **Monckton Chambers**: My mini-pupillage included writing a draft opinion on issues raised in conference at the Competition and Market Authority, and persuading counsel to adopt my advice. I was tested on advising a foreign government seeking to reject a case at the UN Human Rights Committee, and worked on a freedom of information case.

Sep 2019-Feb 2020: **Barrister Training**: During this time I competed in **formal legal debating** at Gray's Inn, developing my research, skeleton arguments, and oral advocacy. I trained at the Great Debaters Club on arguing, spotting logical fallacies, and utilising rhetoric. I also undertook **pro bono** legal work with the **Free Representation Unit** (FRU), learning how to represent clients appealing the loss of social security benefits in the First Tier Tribunal and developing my conference skills. At **The High Court**: I marshaled with Mr Justice Warby, sitting as head of the High Court's Media and Communications list, on a claim for harassment made against two tabloid newspapers.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Jan 2013-Oct 2019: To support ourselves through our professional degrees, my wife and I restored a Dutch colonial-era villa in the UNESCO world heritage site of Galle Fort in Southern Sri Lanka, and opened it as the area's first boutique hotel aimed at the online travel market. **Mango House** was consistently ranked in the top five places to stay in the South, and was a founding member of **Greener Galle**, an NGO working for a better environment for locals and visitors.

## WRITTEN JOURNALISM

Apr 2011-Dec 2012: **Correspondent** for **The Sunday Times**: After contributing reporting from Syria, Yemen and Lebanon since 2005, I led coverage of Syria's uprising for the UK's best-selling quality Sunday broadsheet, including running local reporters in Syria and Lebanon. Weekly leads in World News and Focus included breaking stories on the Assad regime's militia, torture, Iranian military assistance and the formation of Syria's armed rebels.

Nov 2010-Jun 2011: **Al Jazeera English**: I recruited a team of reporters in Damascus and Beirut, gathering breaking news for Al Jazeera English's online coverage of the Syrian protest movement. Features included breaking the story of the death by state torture of a 13-year-old boy, news that went on to make global headlines. With my partner, our coverage of Syria during the period was shortlisted for the **2012 Amnesty International Media Awards**.

Jan 2011-Dec 2012: **Correspondent** for **GlobalPost**: I wrote and produced multi-media coverage for America's first online news company dedicated to foreign affairs. Short films made for GlobalPost's On Location series were part of the entry that won a **2011 Peabody Award**.

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Sep 2006–Nov 2011: **The Guardian** and **Observer**. Reporting from Damascus, Beirut and Yemen, I covered Iraqi refugees, upheaval between Syria and Lebanon, the War on Terror, poverty and development, and the Syrian uprising.

Nov 2006–Dec 2008: I was Syria-Lebanon **correspondent** for **The San Francisco Chronicle** covering the aftermath of the Hezbollah-Israeli July War, US military and security issues, and human rights.

Sep 2005–Mar 2010: **Editor IRIN news agency**: Lebanon and Syria editor for the UN's award winning humanitarian news agency. I wrote and photographed over 200 reports on development issues, and the July 2006 War in Lebanon.

Jan 2005 – Jul 2006: **Deputy Editor of The Syria Report**: From Damascus, I wrote and edited reports and features for the country's leading international bulletin on the economy and politics.

Sep 2004–Jan 2011: I was a contributor to other leading British news publications, including **The Economist**, **BBC News** online, **The Times**, **The Independent on Sunday**, **The Sunday Telegraph** and **The Sunday Herald**.

Jun 2003–Apr 2004: **Staff on The Independent Foreign Desk**: International News Assistant: Daily reporting and editing of international news, and ran the foreign service to the media group.

## BROADCAST JOURNALISM

Jan 2010–Dec 2012: **Director of Film Company**: With a former CNN producer I set up an independent documentary film company. I was the director, cameraman and scriptwriter. Over three years, our films included the following:

- **'Little Dictator'**: 25 mins: A film about political satirists swept up by Syria's revolution. Commissioned and broadcast internationally by **Al Jazeera English's** flagship documentary strand, **Witness**. The film was also exhibited at the **V&A** in London in 2012.
- **'Yemen's School of Democracy'**: 30 mins: The story of school children campaigning through the highs and lows of Yemen's only free and fair election. Bought by **Al Jazeera Witness**, Australia's **SBS** and the **Guardian**.
- **'Syria's Youth Revolution'**: 12 mins: The stories of three young protesters who helped start Syria's uprising, commissioned by France's **ARTE** Reportage, later broadcast on America's **PBS Newshour**.
- **'Syria's Children of War'**: 25 mins: The first documentary shot in Syria highlighting the plight of children during the war, it was featured at the IDFA in Amsterdam and the EcranMed Film Festival in Montreal in 2013.
- **'Hunger in Yemen: A Silent Emergency'**: 25 mins: Travelling into remote, rural Yemen to highlight the little-known humanitarian crisis in the country, bought by the **World Food Programme**.
- **'Al Qaeda in Yemen: A New Frontline'**: 10 mins: Analysing the dangers faced by the US-backed Yemeni Counter Terrorism Forces, broadcast by America's **PBS**, Denmark's **TV2**, Sweden's **SVT**, among others.
- **'A Force is Born'**: 5 mins: The first footage of the rebel Free Syrian Army, broadcast on the UK's **Channel 4 News** and later on America's **PBS Newshour** and on Denmark's **TV2**.
- **'Inside Assad's Torture Chambers'**: 7 mins: A torturer and a survivor of torture describe the horrors of life and death inside the Assad regime's prison system. Part of an entry that won a 2011 **Peabody Award**.

Sep 2004–Dec 2012: I was a Middle East correspondent for **Global Radio News** reporting live for **BBC News 24**, **BBC Radio Scotland**, **Canadian CBC**, **Dublin FM**, and American **CBS Radio**. I recorded feature pieces for the **BBC World Service** and **podcasts** for the **Guardian**. I also did **live TV** from Beirut, for **Future News** and **France 24**.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Nov 2004 – ongoing: My documentary photography has been commissioned and published by The Guardian, UNHCR, Al Jazeera, The Sunday Times, San Francisco Chronicle, The New Internationalist, and IRIN, among others.

## CONSULTANCY

Feb 2007–Sep 2013: I taught photojournalism workshops in Beirut and Cairo for the **Soros Foundation**. I worked as a media consultant for the **Norwegian Refugee Council** and organised annual surveys on freedom of the press in Syria and Lebanon for Washington-based **IRES**. I reported from Yemen for risk analysts the **Good Governance Group**.

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

Having been lucky enough to travel parts of America, India, South America, South-East Asia and the Middle East, I enjoy drawing on these experiences to inform my career. I play drums, and have gigged with bands from east London, to Glastonbury, to surfer bars in Sri Lanka. I am also a keen sailor and obtained my RYA Day Skipper qualification.

## REFEREES

**Mr Colin Harvey**, Professor, Queen's University Belfast; Tutor, University of Oxford MSt in IHRL: c.harvey@qub.ac.uk

**Ms Lucy Fisher**, Defence Editor, The Times: lucy.fisher@the-times.co.uk

**Dr Sos Eltis**, Fellow and Tutor in English, Brasenose College, Oxford: sos.eltis@bnc.ox.ac.uk